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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 15 JANUARY 1997 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 13 January 1997 addressed to you by Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the Government of Iran's rejection of the request of the Government of Iraq that the perpetrators of the terrorist crime involving an attempt on the life of Mr. Udayy Saddam Hussein, Chairman of the Iraqi National Olympic Committee and son of President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, should either be extradited or brought to trial in Iran.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Identical letters dated 13 January 1997 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Further to my letters of 26 and 30 December 1996 (S/1996/1076) concerning the heinous crime involving an attempt on the life of Mr. Udayy Saddam Hussein, Chairman of the Iraqi National Olympic Committee and son of President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, I should like to call your attention to the fact that the Iranian Government has rejected the Government of Iraq's request that the perpetrators of the terrorist offence in question should be extradited so as to get their just deserts or that it should try them itself for the crime, as required by the rules of international law applicable to cases of terrorism.

By its note No. 21-3087 of 8 January 1997, the Iranian Embassy in Baghdad returned the two notes that had been addressed to it by the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs requesting that the perpetrators should either be handed over to the Iraqi authorities or brought to trial in Iran. The Embassy stated only that the charges made in the notes were groundless, unacceptable and outside the scope of diplomatic affairs, and it did not address the matter of the terrorist activities of the Da'wah Party. The Party uses Iran as a base and receives the support and backing of the Iranian Government, in violation of international law and, in particular, of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

In presenting this negative attitude adopted by Iran, I once again request you to intervene with the Iranian Government with a view to inducing it to honour its international commitments by bringing the perpetrators to trial or by surrendering them to the Iraqi authorities for that purpose.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs